

The Good News of First Congregational UCC and Christ United Methodist Church

Volume 2025
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Issue 31
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*like us on Facebook: First Congregational United Church of Christ-Great Falls, MT
Christ United Methodist Church Great Falls*

**October 26, 2025
Worship Service
10:00 A.M.**

Worship Leader:
Dr. Kelly Quick

Scripture: Isaiah 29:17-21,
Ecclesiastes 1:3-10

Lay Reader: Rebecca Marinko

Ushers: Doris Motley, Peggy Seeley

Accompanist/Music Director: Melissa Gilbert

Sunday School: Janet Koostra

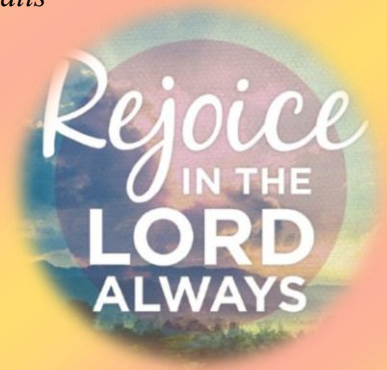
Nursery: May Harris, Lily Yelvington

Coffee Fellowship: Bill Tiskus, Dennis & Sue Turton

Treats: Nancy Dallmann, Carolyn Dowdy, Cara Dunn

UCC Tellers: Paul Haffeman, Carol Shipley

Christ UMC Tellers: Rosemary Neilsen, Jeanne Nobbs



The service will be live-streamed on both church Facebook pages and a recording of the livestream will be available on YouTube later in the day and on the UCC website.



On **November 2**, the worship service will be led by **Rev. Paul Holland** and will focus on remembering those who have died over the past year. **Their names will be read, followed by the sound of a chime and silence.** There will also be a time to come forward and light a candle in remembrance of those who have died. **To have a loved one acknowledged, please let Holly know name and relationship by October 29.** Thank you.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

† Our sympathy to **Betsy Rogstad** and family in the death of Betsy's sister **Moin Greenfield** who died on October 12 in New York.

† A Memorial Service for **Rev. Joe Lawson** who passed away October 12 **will held at our church (2900 9th Avenue S) on November 15, 2:00 P.M., with Pastor Dawn Skerritt officiating.**

† **Nancy Zbinden** is having cochlear implant surgery November 13 in Missoula.

† Congratulation to **Maria Chalfon and Matt Larson** on their marriage in Conrad, MT, October 9. Maria is the niece of **June Rovero**.

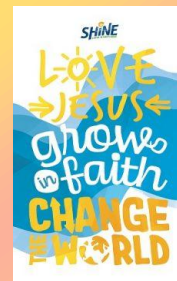
Christian Education News



This week, Sunday School children will **begin in worship**. After a children's message, they will join teacher **Janet Koostra** in Sunday School for the lesson, "Prison to Palace", about Joseph and Pharoah. Sunday School is for children age 5 through grade 6. **Sunday School offering is collected weekly.** Children from birth to age 5 are provided care in the nursery.

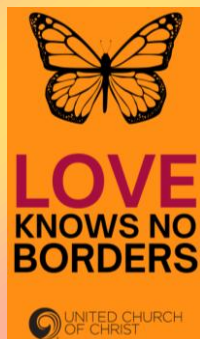
A Memorial Gift

Our new curriculum, *Shine; Living in God's Light*, was purchased by **Erin Borland and family in memory of Erin's mother, Donna Brown**, who passed away a year ago in Florida. Their gift includes lessons, storybook Bibles and extra resources. **Thank you, Borlands, for this generous gift.** It will be a positive impact on our Sunday School children, their families and our teachers and helpers. Many, many thanks.



The Turkey Board

Wow! Amazing! Wonderful! Thank you to all who adopted turkeys on October 19! **We are well on our way to filling Thanksgiving baskets for seven families at West Elementary School, our partner school.** Don't worry if you didn't get a turkey! Around a dozen are still waiting to be adopted. Once you have bought the items listed on your turkey, **please put items in the basket under the Thanksgiving board in the narthex.** If you chose a money donation turkey, please make a check payable to FCUCC with "turkey" in the memo and place it in the offering. Or place cash in an envelope, mark it with your name and "turkey", which may also be placed in the offering. Thank you all so very much! **And many thanks to the co-sponsors of this ministry, the Christian Service Board for providing the turkeys and pies.** Come November, seven families will gobble gobble because of your generosity!



Love Knows No Borders

Our Conference Minister **Rev. Dr. Tony Clark** is traveling to Washington D.C. at the end of this month to meet with other Conference Ministers, the D.C. office, and legislators. Their focus will be on immigrants' rights, particularly around due process and the people of color who are being inadvertently swept up in ICE raids. This [link](#) will give you more info on the "Love Knows No Borders" campaign to reach out to our legislators. There are downloadable letters, letterhead, and postcards for you to write something personal. There is also a link to write your concerns digitally.

If you prefer to send letters or postcards from your church, please mail them to **United Church of Christ Office of Public Policy and Advocacy, 100 Maryland Ave NE Suite 330, Washington, DC 20002, so they arrive before October 27.**

Dear Folks:

What a blessing it was to spend the weekend with you celebrating Pastor Lynne's retirement! Your love for her was evident in the laughter and the tears, the music and the prayers. **While I was there, the search committee asked me to meet with them.** Of course they are concerned about who your next pastor will be. With no candidates, it might feel like staring into a void. They asked if they should do something different with the local church profile, and I assured them that they don't need to do that just yet.

I have been reaching out to clergy with profiles listing Montana-Northern Wyoming as a place they'd consider serving. I will continue that until there is a good candidate; however, also know that there are very few clergy with open profiles, and all Conferences are struggling to fill their pulpits. You are in my prayers, **and I trust that the absolute right person will be with you as God wills it.**

Although a healthy separation from Pastor Lynne was planned, it was hoped that there would be someone in place by the New Year. It seems God has other plans. In the meantime, pulpit supply has been arranged through December, and I will join with you to lead worship and preach in January. **You are smart, faithful people, and some of you might want to share a bit of your faith journey to help fill the pulpit.**

A thing about call is that timing is in the mix. Candidates enter the profile system as some churches are wrapping up their searches, others are settled into a rhythm of waiting, and then there are the ones that are recently in the search. You are still early in the search (the local church profile has been listed for 6 months). Most churches receive a resignation 60-90 days before the ministry ends, and then they form a search team and write a profile and begin engaging candidates. It often takes 18-24 months for the process to work itself out and a pastor is called and settled. Often this time is with an interim, yet they are also scarce these days. You were able to get a little ahead of things because you had so much lead time. **And, it has been 10 months since I met with the search committee for the first time, so do not despair!**

Churches are strongest overall when the congregation owns its mission and purpose. First Congregational UCC/Christ UMC is not Pastor Lynne's church; it is first and foremost God's church, and you, the congregation are the manifestation of that. **You are in a good place financially and missionally.** You seem to enjoy being together, stronger together than apart. You have good leaders and staff. God sees that, God knows that, God has someone in mind for you. I will continue to keep you in my prayers. I wish blessings on you as the holidays approach. And I look forward to seeing you in January.

Rev. Dr. Tony Clark, Conference Minister



Thanksgiving Potluck

Sunday, November 16, 5:00-7:00 P.M.

Hosted by our unified Fellowship Board, turkeys and hams are provided.

A sign-up sheet with a potluck breakdown is on the table in the narthex.

Invite your family and friends and plan to join us!

A friendly reminder to return your pledge for next year's budget. They can be mailed in or dropped off at the church office or put in the offering plate on a Sunday morning. Knowing the pledges directs the Business Affairs Board on creating the 2026 budget. Thank you for your consideration and support for the ministries of the church.



Reverse Offering Stories of Generosity

A couple more reports highlighting the generous acts brought about by church members giving away Reverse Offering money:

Amount of money in envelope: \$5

What I did with the money: I made two donations. One to “Doctors Without Borders” and one to “World Central Kitchen”.

Why I chose this act of kindness: These two groups go to the worst situations and medical care and food.

What did you gain or learn from this experience? To remember to make time to give.

Amount of money in envelope: \$10

What I did with the money: We gave it to the Food Pantry at Longfellow Elementary.

Why I chose this act of kindness: It will help our school kids.

What did you gain or learn from this experience? We were given an additional \$25.00 to donate and that will really help.

From Echo and Erika Greene

Christian Service in Action: Nourishing Community at West Elementary

During the recent Parent Teacher Conferences at West Elementary School, our Christian Service Board; with members from both of our congregations was honored to provide a comforting spread of food for families and staff. With three crock pots brimming with homemade soup, a variety of sandwiches—including delightful pinwheels—and cookies we aimed to offer not just nourishment, but a gesture of care and hospitality. This outreach reflects our mission: to serve with love, meet practical needs, and build bridges between our congregation and the wider community. We are deeply grateful to our church family for the ongoing support that makes this possible. Your contributions—whether through time, resources, or prayer—enable us to show up in meaningful ways, sharing Christ’s compassion one meal at a time. Thank you for helping us live our mission. Together, we are the hands and feet of service

Grief Share Opportunities

Linda Redding with Christ United Methodist will be presenting two different seminars for those experience grief. Both will be held at the church in the Fellowship Hall. **For more information, please contact Linda at (406) 868-1282 or lindakredding@hotmail.com.**

Loss of a Spouse: Monday, November 3, 11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. Your life has changed forever. Daily emotions and challenges seem too hard. This encouraging seminar provides practical advice from others who’ve been there and tools for coping with life without your spouse.

Surviving the Holidays: Monday, December 8, 11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. The holidays are challenging when you’re grieving a loss. This holiday seminar provides encouragement, support, and valuable tools to navigate the season.

Be gentle with yourself. You’re doing your best, and that’s all that matters.

The Hot Fudge Bible, Matt Laney

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. - John 1:14 (NRSV)

My mom is the boss of the sauce. She makes a hot fudge that's truly out of this word. This thick, chocolatey ambrosia, under which ice cream melts in surrender and taste buds sigh in devotion, was the sweet reward of my childhood. With her blessing, and in joyful anticipation that you might also taste the most delicious thing ever concocted from earthly elements, I reveal the sacred recipe:

Mom's Hot Fudge Sauce:

2 squares unsweetened baker's chocolate

¼ cup butter

Melt together in a heavy pan.

Add:

1 cup sugar

5 oz. heavy cream

1 Tbsp. vanilla

Pinch of salt

Boil while stirring for 5 minutes

Can you taste it already? Actually... you can't. That recipe is just a bunch of letters and numbers. If you want to taste it, you have to make it. Assemble, stir, simmer, smell, pour, partake. Scripture is no different. It's a recipe, a witness, a guide, an invitation to encounter the Divine through the lived experience of ancient Israel, her prophets, her poets, and through a carpenter from Nazareth. We can read it, memorize it, quote it, but until we live it, we haven't tasted it. Notice we don't say, "The Bible is the *words* of God." We say, "The Bible is the *Word* of God." The words point to the Word, but they are not the same. John takes it further: "The Word became flesh..." The Word, the living experience of God, took on skin, voice, life, flavor. The words of Scripture aren't the final dish. They're the ingredients pointing us to the living and embodied Word. When we stop treating the Bible like a dropped-from-heaven manuscript and start seeing it as a pointer to the living Word, it becomes a window, not a wall; a sweet yet hot sauce, not a dusty cookbook.

Prayer- God, don't let me just read the recipe. Make me hungry enough to fire up the stove.

Coming Up

Tuesday, October 28

10:00 A.M. Mitten Makers, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, October 29

10:00 A.M. Bible Study, Fellowship Hall

1:30 P.M. Pinochle, Fellowship Hall

6:00 P.M. Youth Group at First UMC

6:00 P.M. Handbells

7:15 P.M. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, October 31- Happy Halloween!

5:00 P.M. Trunk or Treat

First United Methodist Church, 610 2nd Ave. N

Sunday, November 2- All Saints

(Daylight Savings Time Ends. Fall Back.)

11:15 A.M. Worship Board, Parlor

Holly is out of the office October 24-27

